

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of Claims 1-3 and 5 all rely on Bruzzone (WO 99/08151) as teaching an electrical connection between the common line, through a conductive layer, and the supporting column surface. However, it is noted that an adhesive layer 132 is taught by Bruzzone, which adhesive layer is not described as being electrically conductive. Thus for at least this reason, the rejections of Claims 1-5 fail to set forth a *prima facie* case because of the failure to teach each and every element recited in the claims as being disclosed by the reference. Additionally, the limitation that the contact part be outside the active area is not clearly shown or disclosed by Bruzzone.

Furthermore, Bruzzone discloses a supporting column, a contact part, and a conductive layer, which are all considered different from those in the present invention.

The supporting column of the present invention is formed in the same position as the contact part formed in the common line of the lower substrate. The conductive layer of the present invention is formed to cover the upper substrate including the supporting column, wherein a portion of the conductive layer on the supporting column is joined to the common line within the contact part so as to establish a signal interconnection between the upper substrate and the lower substrate.

Additionally, the supporting column (spacing members) of Bruzzone are not formed in the same position as the contact hole formed in the common line of the lower substrate. The conductive layer of Bruzzone is formed on both the upper and lower substrates, thereby providing addressable regions defining each cell of the display. This is distinguished from the conductive layer of the present invention establishing a signal interconnection between the upper substrate and the lower substrate. Rather, both substrates of Bruzzone appear insulated by an adhesive material 132 (See Fig. 3B).

With regard to obviousness rejection under 35 § 103(a) to Claim 2, the second cited reference US 5,973,763 (Fujimura) discloses an insulating layer and a contact part, however, these are also different from those in the present invention. The supporting column of Fujimura is arranged in the corner of the peripheral region of the seal, as shown in Fig. 2. Whereas, the supporting column of the present invention is formed in the same position as the contact part formed in the common line of the lower substrate. Also, the conductive layer of Fujimura is formed only on the upper portion of the supporting column. Whereas, the conductive layer of the present invention is formed on the outer surface of the supporting

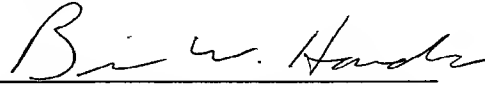
column and on the upper substrate, thereby connecting the supporting column and the common line through the contact part.

It is further noted that Claim 4 has not been rejected, but no indication has been made regarding its status. Applicants thus consider Claim 4 to be allowable as not having been rejected.

For the above reasons, it is considered that the claims find support in the application specification as filed, and that the combination of elements recited in the pending claims, as amended, distinguish over Bruzzone, Fujimura and the other references of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested and an indication of allowable subject matter is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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